



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

The People of India A Series of Photographic
Illustrations, with Descriptive Letterpress,
of the Races and Tribes of Hindustan

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	The People of India: A Series of Photographic Illustrations, with Descriptive Letterpress, of the Races and Tribes of Hindustan
Date:	1868 London, C. Whiting Beaufort House, Strand, 1868-1875
Identifier:	FSA.A1990.03
Creator:	Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892. (Publisher) Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876 (Publisher)
Extent:	8 Items
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): The People of India A Series of Photographic Illustrations, with Descriptive Letterpress, of the Races and Tribes of Hindustan Image(s): The People of India A Series of Photographic Illustrations, with Descriptive Letterpress, of the Races and Tribes of Hindustan Image(s): The People of India A Series of Photographic Illustrations, with Descriptive Letterpress, of the Races and Tribes of Hindustan Image(s): The People of India A Series of Photographic Illustrations, with Descriptive Letterpress, of the Races and Tribes of Hindustan Image(s): The People of India A Series of Photographic Illustrations, with Descriptive Letterpress, of the Races and Tribes of Hindustan

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Purchase 1990 A1990.3

Citation

The People of India, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Purchase

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Biographical / Historical

John Forbes Watson and John William Kaye assembled this ethnologic study collection from photographs made by British photographers in India. The collection documents the caste and culture groups of India for a British India Office multi-volume publication. A graduate of Aberdeen University in England, John Forbes Watson (1827-1892) served as an assistant surgeon in the Bombay Medical Services from 1850 to 1853. While in India, Watson began to research Indian agricultural resources. In 1858, he became reporter on the products of India for the India Office in England. A year later, he became director of the India Office's India

Museum, devoted to promoting trade in the British Empire. While there, he published several monographs on Indian plants and textiles. In 1867, he was appointed keeper of the museum, and served in that capacity until he retired in 1879.

Biographical / Historical

John William Kaye (1814-1876) was secretary of the India Office's Political and Secret Department.

Scope and Contents

Photographers represented include J.C.A. Dannenberg, R.H. DeMontmorency, E. Godfrey, W.W. Hooper, H.C. McDonald, J. Mulheran, G. Richter, Shepherd & Robertson (later as Bourne & Shepherd), B. Simpson, B.W. Switzer, H.C.B. Tanner, C.C. Taylor, and J. Waterhouse.

Scope and Contents

Taken in the 1850s and 1860s, these photographs portray the people of many castes, culture groups, and occupations in India, posed individually and in groups. Indian culture groups portrayed include Bhogta, Bhoti, Chero, Dombo, Gond, Gujarati, Ho, Kachari, Kishangarh, Kota, Lepcha, Mishmi, Munda, Naga, Pahari, Paithan, Rajput, Saora, Singpho, Thakur, Tharu, and Toda. Peoples portrayed are from parts of India and surrounding areas, now in Afghanistan, Burma, Iran and Pakistan, such as Assam, Bareli, Behat, Cachar, Chittagong, Delhi, Hazara, Hisar, Kohat, Lahore, Madras, Munjpur, Mysore, Palamau, Shahabad, Shahjahanpur, Sikkim, and Sind.

Scope and Contents

Occupations illustrated include barbers, blacksmiths, carpenters, charcoal carriers, farmers, fish vendors, horse dealers, interpreters, landlords, mendicants, merchants, officials, priests, warriors, and water carriers. Activities shown include dancing and knitting. Artifacts and material culture documented include books, buildings, devotional objects, tools, and weapons such as bows, clubs, shields, guns and spears.

Arrangement

The collection is composed of 8 bound volumes with 470 albumen photoprints mounted alongside text. Photographs are arranged by region, with culture group and region, some also with name and occupation of subjects.

Local Numbers

FSA A1990.03

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Bhotia (Sherpa)
Dom (South Asian people)
Gond (Indic people)
Gujaratis (Indic people)
Kachari (Indic people)
Korwa (Indic people)
Kota (Indic people)
Lepcha
Mishmi (Indic people)
Munda (Indic people)
Naga (Indonesian people)
Rajput (Indic people)
Savara (Indic people)
Thakuri (Indic people)
Tharu
Toda (Indic people)

Cultures:

Bhotia (Sherpa)
Dom (South Asian people)
Gond (Indic people)
Gujaratis (Indic people)
Kachari (Indic people)
Korwa (Indic people)
Kota (Indic people)
Lepcha
Mishmi (Indic people)
Munda (Indic people)
Naga (Indonesian people)
Rajput (Indic people)
Savara (Indic people)
Thakuri (Indic people)
Tharu
Toda (Indic people)

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Places:

Afghanistan
Assam (India)
Burma
Cachar (India)
Chittagong (Bangladesh)
Delhi (India)
Hazara District (Pakistan)
Hisar (India)
India
Iran
Kohat District (Pakistan)
Lahore (India)
Madras (India)

Mysore (India)
Pakistan
Palamu (India)
Shahabad (India : District)
Shahjahanpur (India)
Sikkim (India)
Sind (India)

Container Listing

Series FSA A1990.03 1: The People of India, Volume One

1 Volume

Box 4

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.
Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 1

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia
Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Hindus
Christians
Rajput (Indic people)
Buddhists

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Series FSA A1990.03 2: The People of India, Volume Two

1 Volume

Box 5

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.

Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 2

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia

Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Hindus

Rajput (Indic people)

Muslims

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Series FSA A1990.03 3: The People of India, Volume Three

1 Volume

Box 6

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.
Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 3

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia
Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Hindus
Rajput (Indic people)
Muslims
Buddhists

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Series FSA A1990.03 4: The People of India, Volume Four

1 Volume

Box 7

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.
Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 4

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia
Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Hindus
Rajput (Indic people)
Muslims
Sikhs
Buddhists
Jains

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Series FSA A1990.03 5: The People of India, Volume Five

1 Volume

Box 8

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.
Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 5

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia
Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Hindus
Muslims
Sikhs

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Series FSA A1990.03 6: The People of India, Volume Six

1 Volume

Box 9

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.

Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 6

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia

Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Muslims

Hindus

Sikhs

Jains

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Series FSA A1990.03 7: The People of India, Volume Seven

1 Volume

Box 10

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.
Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 7

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia
Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Rajput (Indic people)
Hindus
Muslims

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Series FSA A1990.03 8: The People of India, Volume Eight

1 Volume

Box 11

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

[Image\(s\)](#)

Publisher: Watson, J. Forbes (John Forbes), 1827-1892.
Kaye, John William, Sir, 1814-1876

Language: English.

Local FSA A1990.03 8

Numbers:

Topic: Indigenous peoples -- South Asia
Ethnography -- South Asia

Culture: Hindus
Muslims
Christians
Malay

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